

10/57289

IAP9 Rec'd 05/07/06 20 MAR 2006

EXPRESS MAIL MAILING LABEL: EQ 467247418 US

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: STONES et al.

Serial No.: n/a

Filed: Contemporaneous Herewith

International Application No. PCT/GB2004/004114

International Application Filing Date: September 23, 2004

Entitled: Vacuum Pump

Dkt. No.: M03B312

Group Art Unit: n/a

Examiner: n/a

Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

The Examiner's attention is directed to the documents identified on the attached Forms PTO/SB/08A and PTO/SB/08B "Information Disclosure Statement By Applicant." A copy of each non-US patent document is enclosed.

Please consider all the listed documents and list them on the cover sheet of any patents to issue from the subject application.

The Information Disclosure Statement submitted herewith is being filed within three months of the filing date of the application or within three months of the date of entry of the National Phase of an international application or before the mailing of a first Office Action on the merits.

In accordance with 37 CFR 1.97(b), no additional fee is due. As a precaution, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge to Deposit Account No. 02-2865 any fee required by this submission.

Very truly yours,

Ira Lee Zebrak
Attorney for Applicant(s)
Reg. No. 31,147

Date: March 20, 2006
The BOC Group, Inc.
Legal Services - Intellectual Property
575 Mountain Avenue
Murray Hill, NJ 07974
(908) 771-6469

Attachments

Forms PTO/SB/08A & PTO/SB/08B

Cited References

ILZ:bjl

10/572889

IAP9 Rec'd PGT/PTO 20 MAR 2006

EXPRESS MAIL MAILING LABEL: EO 467247418 US

PTO/SB/08A (07-05)

Approved for use through 07/31/2006. OMB 0651-0031

Approved for use through 07/06/2006. GPO 2001-000

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number.

Substitute for form 1449/PTO

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

(Use as many sheets as necessary)

Sheet 1 of 2

Complete if Known

Application Number	
Filing Date	
First Named Inventor	STONES et al.
Art Unit	
Examiner Name	
Attorney Docket Number	M03B312

U. S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages Or Relevant Figures Appear	T ⁶
		Country Code ³ -Number ⁴ -Kind Code ⁵ (if known)				
	8	EP 0 256 739 B1	05-29-1991	Seiko Seiki Kabushiki		
	9	EP 0 919 726 A1	06-02-1999	The BOC Group plc		
	10	EP 1 302 667 A1	04-16-2003	The BOC Group plc		
	11	GB 2 360 066 A	09-12-2001	The BOC Group plc		

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
-----------------------	--	--------------------	--

¹EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. ²Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ³See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. ⁴Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁵For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁶Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. ⁶Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 (1-800-786-9199) and select option 2.

10/572889

IAP9 Rec'd PCT/PTO 20 MAR 2006

PTO/SB/08B (07-05)

Approved for use through 07/31/2006. OMB 0651-0031

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number.

Substitute for form 1449/PTO				<i>Complete if Known</i>	
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT <i>(Use as many sheets as necessary)</i>				Application Number	
				Filing Date	
				First Named Inventor	STONES et al.
				Art Unit	
				Examiner Name	
Sheet	2	of	2	Attorney Docket Number	M03B312

NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.			
	12	United Kingdom Search Report of Application No. GB 0322883.0; Date of search: March 18, 2004			
	13	United Kingdom Search Report of Application No. GB 0322883.0; Date of search: June 9, 2004			
	14	PCT International Search Report of International Application No. PCT/GB2004/004114; Date of mailing of International Search Report: January 14, 2005			
	15	PCT Written Opinion of the International Search Authority of International Application No. PCT/GB2004/004114; Date of mailing: January 14, 2005			

Examiner Signature	Date Considered
--------------------	-----------------

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

1 Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). 2 Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO:
Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 (1-800-786-9199) and select option 2.